

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JANUARY 31, 2008

## Phelan Retires from Public Works And Leaves “Big Shoes to Fill”

by Carol Griffith

Bill Phelan has retired from his position as assistant director of the city’s Public Works Department. A party to celebrate this milestone and honor his accomplishments was held at Chevy’s Restaurant on December 19. Many Greenbelt residents, fellow Public Works Department employees, city council members, family members and friends and other city employees attended.

Phelan worked for the City of Greenbelt for 21 years, beginning as the city’s horticulturist and parks superintendent. “In this position Phelan had the opportunity to make the landscaping around Greenbelt be exceptional,” said Julia Eichhorst, a past president of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., where Phelan resided. “By serving in this position for numerous years, his impact was even greater as he added new garden areas throughout the community.” Under his leadership, the Department of Public Works has “undertaken numerous new initiatives,” according to Carolyn Clemens, also an assistant director of the department. Phelan was responsible for several areas



Bill Phelan is feted by friends and colleagues at his retirement party in December.

within Public Works: horticulture, grounds, especially the parks and ballfields; and recycling and refuse. He leaves “big shoes to fill,” Clemens said.

Before coming to Greenbelt in 1986, Phelan lived in several other states, including Indiana, Oregon and Virginia where he ran a pear, cherry and apple orchard. “Greenbelt was the first place I’ve lived where I felt I fit

in,” he stated.

### Responsibilities

Phelan was responsible for landscaping the city’s streets and boulevards. He led the work to design and install landscaping at the entrances to the communities in Greenbelt East, then under development. He oversaw the construction of the city’s green

See **PHELAN**, page 5

## Participants Visioning the Future Bring Forth Ideas for Greenbelt

by Virginia Beauchamp

Think of a session of something like musical chairs. The music was the hum or – more accurately – cacophony of multiple voices all trying to be heard in one confined space. And of course no chairs were taken away, as in the game; on the contrary, sometimes more chairs were added as later participants wandered in.

When people were to move on from one group to another was no surprise – like the sudden stop that is the point of musical chairs. Here the timing for groups to move along had been pre-ordained – at about 40 minutes per session, with a five-minute warning to wrap it up.

These were the general ground rules for the city council’s invitation to local citizens to participate in something called “a community visioning exercise.” It took place from 9 a.m. to something close to 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 26 in the Municipal Building. Five groups gathered in circles in the council chamber and another group formed inside the main office. (Staff later estimated that about 100 people participated in the day’s exploration of the city’s future.)

Although the directors of city departments were members of

each of the groups for which they were responsible, they did not lead the discussions. Instead the city officers served as scribes, writing down suggestions or queries on large sheets of paper then posted for all to see. The discussion within each group, however, was opened by a designated moderator – perhaps a lower-ranking staff member or a citizen volunteer.

This led to some inconsistencies among the groups, as two of our reporters noted. Occasionally a group leader allowed one citizen to hold forth on a pet topic and dominate the session.

### Group Leaders

Silke Pope, chair of the Public Safety Committee, led the discussion for that group, with Police Chief Jim Craze serving as scribe. For Public Works, Assistant City Manager David Moran chaired the meeting and Public Works Director Kenny Hall was note taker. City Treasurer Jeff Williams took notes for a group called General Government and Kevin Hammett, chair of the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB), chaired the group.

Similarly Celia Craze, director of Planning and Community Development for the city, was notetaker for that group and George

Brnayan, chair of the Advisory Planning Board (APB), led the discussion. Note taker for the group looking at Social Services was Liz Park, who chairs CARES, and Jeff Morissette, chair of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), facilitated the discussion.

Finally, Betty Timer, a member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, led discussion for the group concerned with Recreation and Parks and Recreation Director Hank Irving was note taker.

### Planning Department

For the first session this reporter headed to the Planning and Community Development group. It looked like the largest gathering in the room, with 16 citizens and two staff members. Probably our group of citizens was drawn to this group because the city’s future in many ways will be controlled by the size and contours of its future physical development and we wanted the latest word on what is in the works.

Since the recent slowdown of the real estate market, much of the planning for Greenbelt West has apparently become less certain. When we asked, Planning

See **VISIONING**, page 12

### Election 2008

## Congressional Candidates Run in Primary Election

by James Giese

Tuesday, February 12 is primary election day for candidates seeking office in the 2008 general election to be held next November. Other than the presidential preferential party primaries, there is little in the primary to engender voter interest. The only other office for which there is a primary contest in which Greenbelt voters can participate is that of the Fifth Congressional District.

Steny H. Hoyer, the incumbent, is seeking reelection as a Democrat. In the primary he is opposed by one other person, James Patrick Cusick, Sr. Three Republicans are on the ballot for that party’s nomination, although one, Jesse James Dann, has announced his withdrawal from the race.

(Biographical information is based on information provided at each candidate’s website.)

### Hoyer

Now a Mitchellville resident, Steny H. Hoyer, 68, is completing his 12th full term in Congress. He was first elected in May, 1981, to fill the unexpired term of Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman, who had suffered a disabling stroke. This term he was elected to serve as House majority leader, the second most powerful position in

the House of Representatives following that of speaker of the House. Previously in 2002 he was elected minority whip by the Democrats.

Before entering Congress, Hoyer had served three years on the State Board for Higher Education after unsuccessfully seeking the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor. At that time he was president of the Maryland State Senate, having first been elected to the Senate in 1966. Born in New York City, Hoyer has a B.A. degree from the University of Maryland in political science and a J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

A widower, Hoyer is the father of three children.

(<http://www.hoyerforcongress.com>)

### Cusick

James Patrick Cusick, Sr., 52, is a disabled and unemployed resident of Lexington Park. Born in Leonardtown, he obtained a high school G.E.D. in 1975. He is divorced and has one son. After his separation and divorce, he traveled about the country for over 10 years. Upon returning home he was incarcerated for three months in 1994 and six months in 1997 for failure to

See **CANDIDATES**, page 2

## Absentee Ballots Available

Mailed requests for absentee ballots for the February 12 primary election must be received by the Prince George’s County Board of Elections by no later than February 5 (4:30 p.m. if mailed, 11:59 p.m. if faxed). Requests can be made only on application forms provided by the Maryland Board of Elections. They are available on the board’s website <http://elections.state.md.us/> and using the quick link for absentee voting on the left side of the page.

Absentee ballots can also be obtained and voted through election day by going to the Prince George’s County Board

of Elections Office, 16201 Trade Zone Ave. (off Md. Rt. 301), Upper Marlboro and filing a late application (telephone 301-430-8020).

Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the election board by 8 p.m. election day unless mailed. Ballots mailed and postmarked on or before February 12 and received by the board by no later than 10 a.m. February 22 will be counted.

Only those persons who will be absent from their voting precinct or unable to vote in person on election day will be permitted to vote early by absentee ballot.



### What Goes On

**Saturday, February 2**

**9 a.m. to noon**, Final Community Visioning Session, Eleanor Roosevelt High School Multipurpose Room

**Sunday, February 3**

**1 to 5 p.m.**, Artful Afternoon, Community Center

**Tuesday, February 5**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, Post Office at Greenbelt Municipal Building Reopens



# Letters to the Editor

## Thanks Again – One Year Later

Last year our family held a fund-raiser at the Greenbelt American Legion for my son’s transplant fund. You helped us raise more than \$5,000. We are happy to report that our son received a transplant of both a kidney and a pancreas in October. He is now free from dialysis and no longer a diabetic – a true testament to the concept of miracles in life. He has not experienced any signs of organ rejection and his health is normal for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Your money is still in savings and will help to defray future drug expenses not covered by insurance. Your kind words, prayers, good thoughts and donations helped tremendously in this endeavor. Our unending thanks to all of you, to the other members of the “Good Guys” who played that night, to Paula Clinedinst who could not have been more helpful at the benefit, to the Legion for providing us with a great place to hold such a grand and loving affair and to the News Review for its continuing presence and for publishing letters of thanks.

We remain humbled by this experience. Greenbelt is Great!  
*Rick and Barbara Ransom*

## Speed Cameras

The Greenbelt City Council would like to install speed cameras in our small city if the Maryland Legislature grants permission. With the exception of a few school zones, my own experience with these cameras in Rockville, Chevy Chase and the District of Columbia is that they are calibrated and located in places more likely to generate the most revenue rather than increase pedestrian safety. I suspect that if the City of Greenbelt installs speed cameras, that every contractor and service person that is called to serve the residents of Greenbelt will raise their service fees to cover the increased cost of doing business.

Using penalties to generate

revenue instead of taxes is politically easier but everybody ends up paying higher costs for services privately. The problem in Greenbelt is that drivers cannot see pedestrians who are about to enter the crosswalks because parked cars block their view. Even at 25 mph, a driver does not see a pedestrian until they are in the middle of the road.

I would certainly like to see pedestrian safety improved in the City of Greenbelt and would like to see the city consider two ways that I have seen work well in other communities. The cheapest of the two would be to have containers of large, red flags at each end of every crosswalk. The pedestrian would simply carry the flag across the street and would be highly visible even behind a parked car. The other idea would be to install state of the art crosswalks that have blinking lights embedded in the roadway when someone is about to cross the street. I understand they are very expensive but they work. Should the city council continue to insist that speed cameras are to promote safer streets, then let them allocate every dime of revenue generated by the cameras to pay for the safest crosswalks available.

*Carol Beigel*

## Correction

In last week’s front page story on the City of Greenbelt visioning session at Springhill Lake, it was reported that Springhill Lake’s residents represent approximately 50 percent of the city population. According to the latest population estimates provided by the Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development, the Springhill Lake population is about 27 percent of the total city population of just over 21,000. The approximately 2,900 apartment units in Springhill Lake represent 29 percent of the total number of residential units within the city.

# CANDIDATES

continued from page 1

meet child support payments.

Left homeless and destitute with demands still being made for child support payment, he found the child support system to be severely corrupt. He spray-painted the pillars of the Circuit Court building in Leonardtown with anti-child support system slogans, resulting in a sentence of 18 months in the county detention center. In 1998, he again spray-painted pillars in front of the child support enforcement office in Leonardtown and was returned to the detention center for another 14 month sentence.

Cusick then reasoned that the courts enforce the child support laws and do not make them. So upon his release in 2000, he went to Annapolis and painted two pillars of the Maryland State House with red protest slogans. For this he was sentenced to three years in state prison, where he considered himself to be a political prisoner. He was released in 2003 and his child support case is now closed.

(<http://www.voteCUSICK.brave-host.com>)

The following Republicans are running for office:

### Bailey

Collins Bailey, 54, is a self-employed businessman. He is currently in his fourth consecutive term on the Charles County Board of Education. He is married, has four children and resides in Waldorf.

(<http://www.baileyforuscongress.com>)

### Dann

While remaining on the ballot, Jesse James Dann, 47, has withdrawn from the campaign as of January 26 after determining that his moderate positions on key issues had “clearly left primary voters in my party uninspired.” Named after his grandmother and father, he was born in Delhi, New York. A graduate of the Delaware Academy, he served four years in the Navy in the Presidential Honor Guard.

A resident of Lothian, Dann is married and has two children. He is currently regional director for a local restaurant company. He is an avid cyclist, having completed the Mt. Washington Hill Climb and several 100-mile fund-raising rides.

(<http://www.jessejames2008.com>)

## Grin Belt



"Look, Egg Foo Yung. Perfect for our Super Bowl party!"

### Hethmon

Mike Hethmon, 54, is the general counsel for the Immigration Reform Law Institute and was previously a staff attorney for American Immigration Reform. He has previously worked as a contracts and program manager in Saudi Arabia and as a contracts and program specialist for the U.S. Department of Energy and the State Department.

A Prince Georgian, he resides with his wife and three children in Croom. Previously, he was a resident of Berwyn Heights. Originally from Santa Clarita, Calif., Hethmon has a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, an M.B.A. from Thunderbird Graduate School and a J.D. from the University of Maryland.

## Greenbelt Museum Receives Artifacts

The Greenbelt Museum has received a number of artifacts over the past month. They include a baseball signed by the 1940 Greenbelt Shamrocks, Co-op brand furniture polish and spices, two stock certificates from Greenbelt Consumer Co-operative, a suit sewn by a little girl depicted in a Farm Security Administration (FSA) photo and the sewing machine used by Leslie Atkins, who was also photographed using the machine in a FSA photo. There are also two pending accessions, one a Greenbelt Woman’s Club Cook Book and some Greenbelt High School yearbooks from the 1940s.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Pat Davis, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Thomas X. White.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

• • • • •

**LOVE  
NOTES  
ARE  
COMING**

• • • • •

**Deadline is Feb. 12!**

• • • • •

**OLD GREENBELT  
THEATRE**

**WEEK OF FEB. 1**

**Juno  
(PG-13)**

Friday  
\*5:15, 7:30, 9:30

Saturday  
1\*, \*3:10, \*5:15, 7:30, 9:30

Sunday  
1\*, \*3:10, \*5:15, 7:30

Monday - Thursday  
\*5:15, 7:30

\*These shows at \$6.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745  
129 Centerway  
[www.pgtheatres.com](http://www.pgtheatres.com)

**GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE**

– Monday, February 11, 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.,  
Knights of Columbus Prince George’s Council,  
9450 Cherry Hill Road,  
College Park

– Tuesday, February 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
Prince George’s County Association of Realtors,  
8400 Corporate Drive,  
Landover

– Wednesday, February 13, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
Computer Sciences Corporation, 8400 Corporate Drive,  
Hyattsville

– Thursday, February 14, 1 to 6 p.m.,  
City of Hyattsville, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville

– Friday, February 15, 1 to 6 p.m.,  
I.U.E.C. Local 10, Main Building,  
9600 Martin Luther King Blvd., Lanham

**Call 301-552-8060 for an appointment.**



# Community Events

## At the Library

Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories:

Tuesday, February 5, 10:30 a.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months old with caregiver, limit 15 babies.

Wednesday, February 6, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 children.

Thursday, February 7, 10:30 a.m., Drop-In Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 children.

Caregivers are asked to pick up a free ticket at the Children's Desk.

## GHI Notes

Scheduled Meetings:

**Monday, February 4, 7:15 p.m.** – Pre-purchase Orientation

**Tuesday, February 5, 7 p.m.** – GGI Steering Committee

**Wednesday, February 6, 7 p.m.** – Member and Community Relations Committee

Unless otherwise noted all events take place at the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Administration Building. Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Note: The 2008 Board Meeting schedule has been changed to the second and fourth Thursdays of every month through May.

## Pinsky to Speak At PTA Tuesday

Greenbelt's State Senator Paul Pinsky will speak at the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5. The meeting will take place in the school gym from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There will be an opportunity to ask Senator Pinsky questions relating to public education. Parents and teachers from all Greenbelt schools and other interested community members are invited to attend.

## Astronomical Star Party February 2

On Saturday, February 2 Astronomical Society members will hold a star party at Northway Field.

Members of the society will begin to set up to view the moon and other celestial objects at approximately 6 p.m. In the event of rain or hopelessly cloudy skies the event will be cancelled without further notice.

Details are available at [www.greenbeltastro.org/events\\_shtml](http://www.greenbeltastro.org/events_shtml).



## Explore Impressionist Artists February 8

Explorations Unlimited will host a presentation by Delores Haverstick on Friday, February 8 at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. Haverstick will give an introduction and overview of "From Monet to Van Gogh: A History of Impressionism," a SAGE course offered by Prince George's Community College that begins Thursday, February 14.

Using videotaped materials, including beautifully photographed paintings, participants will explore the seminal works, the major artists and the contemporary events and ideas of the Impressionist movement that changed forever the way art is viewed. Haverstick will speak from historical and cultural perspectives rather than an artistic one. She invites the audience on a journey into the 19th century to have a dialogue about the major events and people that affected the movement from Monet to Van Gogh.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. This presentation will be held in the Senior Classroom, Room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

There is a change in the February schedule for the Golden Age Club.

We will have "Open Mic" on February 6 as many of the members and officers will be on the trip to see "Sound of Music." The business meeting will be on February 12. February 20 will be the birthday pot luck lunch and on February 27 – Cindy Murray of Greenbelt Public Works Department will tell us about recycling. Be sure to mark your calendars and come to all the meetings.

Health issues and hospital stays have been a concern for some of our members. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We are glad to have cheerful news of Ellie Rimar and Flo Holly. Our condolences to the family of Laurita Pranger.

Reminder: Time to pay Golden Age Club dues.

Reminder #2: Be sure to go and vote.

## GEAC Meets

The next meeting of the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC) will be held February 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Windsor Green.

## Café Annual Meeting Is on February 10

There will be an annual membership meeting of the New Deal Café on Sunday, February 10 at 6 p.m., at the New Deal Café.

There are four (out of a total of five) seats on the board open for election, all but current board president Peter May. Notice to run for election should be given of intent to run for election sometime before the election to the nominations committee or secretary. Additional nominations can be made from the floor during the meeting. Those interested should see the bylaws on the New Deal Café website [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com) for more information. The nominations committee consists of Alan Turnbull, Cathy Jones, Lori Martin and Lester Whitmer and the secretary is Bill Jones.

No substantive motion can be discussed at the meeting other than (a) a motion submitted "on written request to the secretary for such action by three members at least seven days in advance of such a meeting" per Bylaw IV.3 or (b) elections (since they are required by the Bylaws) or (c) a motion to recommend certain actions be taken by the board (such recommendations are not legally binding).

There will also be a discussion of the Café's current financial status.

## Four Shillings Short at Café



Aodh Og O Tuama and Christy Martin will perform at the New Deal Café on Wednesday, February 6.

Four Shillings Short will return to the New Deal Café on Wednesday, February 6 in a special concert from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Their last concert on December 2 played to a packed audience and was sold out. This is the last chance to see them this year as they will not return to the Washington area until 2009.

In a single night, the duo of Aodh Og O Tuama and Christy Martin perform traditional Irish and Scottish songs, tunes and airs; Indian ragas; folk ballads; old-time songs; medieval and renaissance instrumentals and a cappella numbers as well as contemporary folk and original com-

positions. According to Two Way Street Coffee House in Downers Grove, Ill., "Four Shillings Short brings a fascinating mix of material, spirit and wit to the stage. They are visually interesting with their eclectic array of instruments. There is excitement, electricity and fun in their performance."

The New Deal Café, not normally open on Wednesdays, will open on February 6 at 6:45 p.m.; the concert will start at 7 p.m. Food and drink will be available. There is a moderate cover charge for this special event.

For more information call 301-474-5642 or visit the website at [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com).

### Postal Unit to Re-open on Tuesday



The postal unit located in the Municipal Building has been temporarily closed. It will remain closed until Tuesday, February 5 while a new postal clerk is hired and trained. After re-opening the unit will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### four shillings short

Traditional Irish tunes and airs, Indian Ragas, Folk Ballads, Old-Time songs, Medieval & Renaissance  
**WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 6TH 7:30 to 10pm**  
Suggested tax-deductible donation \$10.00 Adults,  
\$5 Children from 5 to 17 - all are welcome  
**At the New Deal Cafe**  
**113 Centerway, Greenbelt Maryland 20770**  
**Phone: (301) 474-5642 [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com)**

## Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club

are looking for soccer commissioners, football commissioner, registrar and athletic director. Volunteers are welcomed to apply at the Greenbelt Youth Center during club hours, Mon. thru Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club

will be holding registration for  
**2008 SOCCER season**  
on **February 1, February 5, February 8, February 12 and February 15**  
at the Greenbelt Youth Center  
from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

There will be a U-14 co-ed team this year as well.



## Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall  
Center Court  
301-220-1155  
**ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m. ONLY \$5.50**  
Children, Seniors \$5.50  
Adults \$7.50  
R = ID Required  
(!) = No pass, No Discount Ticket

### Week of FEBRUARY 1

**FRI. - SAT.**  
**Cloverfield, PG-13**  
12:40, 3:10, 5:20, 8, 10:10  
**Veggie Tales, G**  
12:40, 3:10  
**Mad Money, PG-13**  
5:20, 7:45, 10:20  
**Rambo, R (!)**  
12:30, 3, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20  
**Meet the Spartans, PG-13 (!)**  
12:40, 3:10, 5:20, 8, 10  
**The Eye, R (!)**  
12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:30  
**How She Move, PG-13 (!)**  
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10  
**First Sunday, PG-13**  
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30  
**Untraceable, PG-13 (!)**  
12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:30

**SUN. - THUR.**  
**Cloverfield, PG-13**  
12:40, 3:10, 5:20, 8  
**Veggie Tales, G**  
12:40, 3:10  
**Mad Money, PG-13**  
5:20, 7:45  
**Rambo, R (!)**  
12:30, 3, 5:30, 7:50  
**Meet the Spartans, PG-13 (!)**  
12:40, 3:10, 5:20, 8  
**The Eye, R (!)**  
12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30  
**How She Move, PG-13 (!)**  
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40  
**First Sunday, PG-13**  
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40  
**Untraceable, PG-13 (!)**  
12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30

**Greenbelt Nursery School**  
**Open House**  
**Registration for Fall 2008**  
**Saturday, February 23, 10 am – 1 pm**

**Classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4**  
**Two, three, and five days a week. Low child to staff ratio.**  
**Full day educational programs available.**

**Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road**  
**301-474-5570 [www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org](http://www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org)**

Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs



**Mardi Gras Festival Saturday, February 2**

The annual Mardi Gras celebration will be held by St. George's Episcopal Church, 7010 Glenn Dale Road, Glenn Dale on Saturday, February 2 at 6 p.m.

The celebration will include a dinner, silent auction, costume judging and dancing. Costumes are encouraged. For ticket information or to reserve a ticket, call 301-262-3285. Children 10 years and under will be admitted free. Child care will be available.

**“Follow the Drinking Gourd” at Planetarium**

On Friday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. the planetarium program “Follow the Drinking Gourd” will be presented at Howard B. Owens Science Center.

This sky show, based on the book of the same name by Jeanette Winter, introduces the day and night skies and discusses the importance of the Big Dipper (which slaves called a Drinking Gourd). Learn a song which was rumored to be sung by slaves in Alabama and Mississippi that explained how to use the gourd to flee north to freedom. The program finishes with the story and artwork from Winter's book, which is the story of a family escaping from the South using the Drinking Gourd as a guide.

A tour of the night sky follows the presentation.

There is a nominal fee with a reduction for seniors and students.

The Owens Science Center is at 9601 Greenbelt Road in Lanham-Seabrook. Park in the lot at Catherine T. Reed Elementary School. Call 301-918-8750 during school hours to confirm topic.

**College Workshop In Spanish, Free**

The Prince George's County Public Schools International Guidance Office will join the University of Maryland in hosting a free college workshop in Spanish on Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest speakers will provide information on preparing for and financing a college education. Bilingual representatives from area colleges and universities will be onsite and a tour of the University of Maryland campus will also be available.



**Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS**


Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building

**Baha'i Faith**

"The Great Being saith: In this glorious Day whatever will purge you from corruption and will lead you toward peace and composure, is indeed the Straight Path."  
— Bahá'u'lláh

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Greenbelt Baha'i Community  
P.O. Box 245  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-345-2918 301-220-3160  
www.bci.org/greenbeltbahai www.bahai.us



Condolences to Diane and Tim Grady of Greenbriar on the sudden death of Diane's brother Jesse Ayer of College Park on January 15, 2008, at the age of 62. He was a graduate of High Point High School and had many Greenbelt friends.

Congratulations to James Domchick who was elected president of the Greenbelt Lucky Leaves 4-H Club on January 27.

Our best wishes for a speedy recuperation to Pat Hand, making a steady recovery from recent knee replacement surgery.

Congratulations to Jordan Washington, 14, of Eleanor Roosevelt High School for earning a place on the school's honor roll and being one of seven awardees at a special Sunday service December 16 at Kingdom Christian Center Church International in Lanham. The students each received certificates of accomplishment, a best-selling book and a \$50 cash award.



It's a boy for Derek Skaggs and Jessica Hartwick of Ridge Road. Joining big brother Avery, Von Jean Skaggs was born on Monday, January 28, 2008, weighing in at 8 lbs., 3 oz. Proud grandparents are Karl and Theresa Skaggs and Hank and Debbie Hartwick.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We'd especially like to hear more from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Springhill Lake. To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at [newsreview@greenbelt.com](mailto:newsreview@greenbelt.com) or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

— Kathleen McFarland

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**February 3, 10 a.m.**  
"What It's Like to Live Now"  
by Barbara W. ten Hove, co-minister, with Bruce Baker, worship associate  
The Choir will be singing.  
— Barbara W. and Jacob B. ten Hove, co-ministers

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Sunday 8:15 am    Worship Service  
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          10:30 am    Worship Service



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**Greenbelt Community Church**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/](http://www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/)  
Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m.  
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor


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**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4322



**Mass Schedule:**  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.  
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

**Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.**  
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe  
Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd



Learn About Islam


**GIVE THANKS**

Every breath that we breathe is a blessing from God and we learn from the Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) to recognize these blessings each day. The Holy Qur'an tells us how he never forgot to be thankful to God. He is quoted to have said, "This is by the grace of my Lord, to test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful! And if any is grateful, it is (a gain) for his own soul; but if any is ungrateful, truly my Lord is free of all needs, supreme in honor.

— The Holy Qur'an, 27:40

Count your blessings every day. For more information about gratefulness from an Islamic perspective, call 301-982-9463 or email [info@searchislam.org](mailto:info@searchislam.org) or visit [www.searchislam.org](http://www.searchislam.org).

**Shakespeare Lives at the GAC**



**“The Beard of Avon” runs for two last performances on Friday, February 1 and Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt Arts Center. In this scene, Will (on the right played by Zachary Brewster-Geisz) meets up with the Earl of Oxford (played by Sandy Irving).**

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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[www.greenbeltumc.org](http://www.greenbeltumc.org) 301-474-9410

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Kim, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00am    Worship Service 11:00am  
Prayer Meeting Sun. 10:00am

Wednesday Lenten Bible Study – 6:30pm Soup & Bread, 7:00pm Bible Study  
Starts February 6    Come as you are!



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[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

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Sunday 11:00 am    Worship Service  
Wednesday 7:00 pm    Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

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8:00 am	Simple, quiet Mass
9:00 am	Christian education for all ages
10:00 am	Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
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10:00 a.m. Bible Study    11:00 a.m. Worship

Greenbelt Youth Center    99 Centerway  
(Behind the Community Center)

**Feb. 3 – Applied Christianity**

Pastor Lou Redd  
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**...living life together**





The big slug-like invertebrate is a crane fly larvae and the small one in the same dish is just that, a small one.

# Beaverdam Creek Watchers Find “Benthic” Dwellers

by Mi Ae Kim

What you don’t see is what you get – Living things are all around us but many are too small to be noticed. The Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG) hopes to spread an appreciation for one category of unseen critters – aquatic invertebrates. On a cool day late last fall, Glenn Welch was joined by Martha Tomecek and this reporter in search of the benthic dwellers of a stream located in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. They are easy to capture – just dip a net along the stream bottom and gently scrub the leaves, rocks and sand to wash the insects into the net. Apparently the water in this creek was clean. Sampling yielded stoneflies, caddisflies and mayflies, which would not have been as common had the water been polluted or lacked oxygen. There were also fishflies and crane flies. Aquatic insects are a diverse group with a range of sizes, behaviors and ecology. They have

a variety of roles in their environment, such as breaking down leaves and serving as food for fish. They also serve a purpose in water quality monitoring. Streams that have a diversity of aquatic insects, including stoneflies, caddisflies and mayflies, are in good condition. Maryland’s Stream Waders Volunteer Monitoring Program uses aquatic insects as part of their stream quality monitoring program. The local Audubon Naturalist Society, a nonprofit organization, conducts similar monitoring at numerous sites across the D.C. metro area; they also offer invertebrate identification training classes to would-be volunteer monitors. The sampling by Welch’s group may be the beginning of a long-term monitoring effort by BCWWG in Greenbelt’s backyard. Data from such monitoring can be used as an indicator of environmental impacts within the watershed that need to be corrected. Those who would like to join the fun should call Susan Barnett at 301-474-7465.

# Rt. 193 Improvements Begin, Scheduled to Cost \$1.7M

by Vicki Kriz

The Maryland Department of Transportation’s State Highway Administration (SHA) is currently working on a \$1.7 million improvement on Md. 193 (Greenbelt Road) at Hanover Parkway. The changes include extending the existing left-turn lane and widening the road to build an additional left-turn lane from eastbound Md. 193 to northbound Hanover Parkway. “The volume of vehicles stacking to make a left onto Hanover Parkway was interfering with the flow of through traffic in the adjacent through lane,” Terri Hruby, assistant planning director for the City of Greenbelt, said. “The second left turn lane will provide additional stacking room.” According to an October 30, 2007, press release from SHA, the existing left-turn lane will be extended by 100 feet to allow more space for turning vehicles.


The SHA press release notes that the project also includes reconstruction of concrete medians and sidewalks along both sides of Md. 193 and Hanover Parkway, the construction of new drainage systems, the addition of a new left-turn traffic signal and new pavement markings. Drivers can expect single-lane closures in both directions of Md. 193, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. as well as Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. However, SHA says minimal work will take place until March. The project is scheduled to be completed by the summer. SHA asks that questions about this or any other traffic operation in Prince George’s County be directed to the SHA District 3 office at 301-513-7300 or 1-800-749-0737.

# PHELAN continued from page 1

house where most of the flowering annuals used in landscape beds are grown. On Southway, the entrance road to Old Greenbelt, an underground watering system for the flowerbeds was installed under his supervision. At Greenbelt Lake in Buddy Attick Park, Phelan supervised a number of projects in recent years to plant native plants along the shoreline that help to improve the lake’s water quality. In the last few years, he was responsible for the upgrading of the city’s playgrounds including coordinating the building of a playground in Windsor Green which was community-built and part of the effort which earned Greenbelt a Playful City designation. He was the city’s tree expert and involved in the Adopt-a-Tree program. In 2001 Phelan was promoted to assistant director of the Public Works Department. While continuing to supervise parks and horticultural operations, he assumed broadened administrative and supervisory duties over operations. **GHI Role** A resident of Greenbelt Homes Inc, Phelan was elected to the cooperative’s board of directors in 1993. He served four two-year terms. “While serving on the board, Bill was always a person who listened to everyone, asked needed questions and made

reasonable decisions,” according to Eichhorst. He also served on the Architecture and Environment and Woodlands Committees and was honored as Outstanding Committee Member for the year 1992/93. While on the A&E committee, GHI plant sales were held selling bulbs and native plants to its members. Any plants left over were planted in common areas throughout the GHI community. Phelan gave regular plant workshops for GHI members where he explained how best to landscape and maintain a GHI yard, giving tips on choosing plants, how and when to plant, fertilize, water, prune and take care of pests that naturally come with the turf. The annual City of Greenbelt plant sale began at this time also in conjunction with the Greenbelt Home and Garden Club. It was a way for the city to sell its excess plants and return the sale money to the Public Works department. “Not only did it provide some revenue and help beautify the community, it served as great public relations for the city. Bill was available for answers to gardening questions to whoever asked,” Eichhorst said. Phelan was one of the handful of individuals who started the New Deal Cafe. He felt it would be a place for people to get to-

gether, share some food, discuss and share ideas. **Mexico** Several years ago, Phelan and his wife Jackie visited Mexico and decided that they wanted to spend more time there than a brief vacation once a year. They started researching about purchasing a house in Mexico but ultimately decided to build a house in Mazatlan, Mexico. They were attracted to beauty and lushness of the surroundings, the people and the pace of life. Currently in Mexico, they are building their home and plan on splitting their time between Mexico and Greenbelt returning each spring until fall to visit family and friends for six months. While in Mazatlan, Phelan will never be far from his love of gardening and his artistic work with tile ceramics, said Eichhorst. He has his own kiln and is currently experimenting with paints and glazes for ceramic tile. After his last day at work, the Phelans loaded their van with essentials for their new life, their dogs and started the good life of retirement. “One of Phelan’s favorite sayings is from Mahatma Gandhi, ‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world.’ His service to the Greenbelt community is a reflection of his following this principal,” said Eichhorst.



# City Information

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**  
Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.  
Vacancies exist on the:  
**Arts Advisory Board**  
**Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee**  
**Youth Advisory Committee**  
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

**TEMPORARY POSTAL UNIT TO RE-OPEN**  
The Post Office at the Greenbelt Municipal Building will re-open February 5th.  
The City’s Postal Clerk has left to return to college.  
This temporary closing will allow us to transition to a new clerk.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!**

**Greenbelt Municipal/ Public Access Channel 71 MUNICIPAL ACCESS:**  
**301-474-8000:** Tuesday & Thursday, February 5 & 7 10am & 6pm “Ask the Expert,” 7:00pm: Labor Day presents “The Hubcaps”  
**PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581:** Wednesday & Friday, February 6 & 8: 7pm “Greenbelt Elementary School MLK Poetry, Essay, Poster Winners,” 8pm “Cabaret”

**COMMUNITY VISIONING FOR GREENBELT**  
Join the Mayor and City Council in visioning the future for the City of Greenbelt. Express your views on how to make Greenbelt the best community it can be.  
**FINAL COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSION**  
Saturday, February 2, 2008,  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School Multi-Purpose Room.  
9:00am-12:00 NOON  
For more information, contact the City at 301-474-8000 or e-mail [info@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:info@greenbeltmd.gov).

**AN ARTFUL AFTERNOON**  
Sunday, February 3, 1:00-5:00pm  
Enjoy this monthly, free mini arts festival!  
Artist in Residence Open House, Greenbelt Museum Tours, All Ages, FREE  
Greenbelt Community Center  
**1-3pm:** Make your own bracelet with Artist Elizabeth Morissette.  
**3pm:** Performance: Enjoy laughs and antics with the Nicolo Whimsey Show.  
**Exhibit:** “Pioneers: Living Sculpture by Jackson Martin” Artist talk at 2pm: “From Commune to Cooperative: Art and Intentional Community”  
Also, FREE drawing for tickets to a Clarice Smith Center Performance.  
Info: Barbara Davis 301-397-2208

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Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) for information on City Government, Services and Events.



# City Council Discusses Action Plan for the Gladys N. Spellman Overpass

by Brian St. George

The Spellman pass over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway may never carry the historical connotations of the Khyber or Donner but like its famous brethren it has been the cause of many a discussion, debate and now decision. Council responding to citizen calls for action met on January 22 at the Community Center in an open meeting to discuss the detailed “action plan” from City Manager Michael McLaughlin, regarding the Spellman Overpass.

The action plan was the by-product of several community forums culminating in a Joint Report from the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) and the Public Safety Advisory Committee, (PSAC). It was written by Assistant City Manager David Moran. The report included eight recommendations, the city’s action plan and this worksession addressed these recommendations. In attendance were Councilmembers Rodney Roberts, Edward Putens, Konrad Herling, Leta Mach and Mayor Judith Davis. Also in attendance were representatives from CRAB; PSAC; Chief James Craze; Captain Tom Kemp; Acting Lt. Carl Schinner, Patrol Division commander; and Capt. Daniel O’Neil, Administrative Services Division commander.

As usual Davis led the discussion. Point one being police presence. The meeting opened with questions to Craze about criminality near the Spellman overpass since the last meeting.

Craze indicated that due to the cold weather it was difficult to give a definitive answer as there are simply not as many people walking across the overpass as there are in the warmer months. The Greenbelt Police as detailed in the action plan are committed to having two bike officers assigned to the area for a minimum of two hours a day. K-9 officers will patrol the area as part of their dogs’ exercise regimen. Also, police will patrol on both sides of the overpass during times of high student usage. Roberts said that increased police presence should really help. Herling also expressed that police presence is key. The idea was expressed that if the miscreants are squeezed out of this area they are likely to show up somewhere else, to which Putens expressed concern.

### Maintenance

Discussion then moved on to point two, which was maintenance. The concerns here centered on holes in the fence that potential felons may escape through. A discussion ensued about why perpetrators would be escaping through the hole in the fence to the Parkway. After several opinions Putens said he had been told that it’s a popular place to smoke Ganja. Apparently if one drives past there at 4 p.m., when the weather’s warm, one can see kids sitting under the overpass. The National Park Service is responsible for the grounds as it is part of the BW Parkway but the city suggested taking care of the fence 100’ in either direction, to keep

the fence repaired on a regular basis. The widely discussed idea of thorny bushes, pyracantha or raspberries, was also brought up as a deterrent to those who would use the woods as a cover. To this Mc Laughlin replied that thorny bushes could prevent hikers seeking to access the forest preserve. Davis asked if public works could also work on cleaning up trash in the area, to which McLaughlin replied that is a “sizeable request.”

Apparently the monument to Gladys Spellman near the overpass is a meeting place for those who may not have the best of intentions and Davis liked the city’s idea of moving the monument. The city plans to take the monument off its pedestal and mount it on the ground, as well as remove the asphalt which juts off the path at the site of memorial. Precisely where the monument’s new location will be has not been determined. Someone suggested that the Arts Advisory Board be consulted. A local citizen said he was not in favor of taking down the pedestal and said he saw no signs of miscreant activity around the monument. Council and the advisory committees disagreed and the monument will be moved.

### Better Design

Next was the concept of better environmental design, a key component of this was straightening the path from Gardenway to the overpass. However, this would require the removal of 30 to 40 trees. Davis suggested that if the path was straight it would give the police a “clear site.” Craze

said he would prefer it straightened but no councilmember was willing to commit to taking down 30 to 40 trees. In addition the cost of straightening the path was deemed to be significant.

Then the playgrounds were discussed, apparently another place for social gatherings. The problem, where to move them? After discussion no ready answer was apparent, however the covered slide was deemed inappropriate for the area. Mach indicated that deviant behavior had taken place inside the slide. The covered slide will be replaced with an open slide.

Education and outreach was also covered. Residents on Gardenway will be receiving flyers as to what actions the city and police are taking. The Old Greenbelt Neighborhood Watch group will meet with police to hear and discuss what steps are being taken.

### Cameras

Finally the big ticket items, call boxes and security cameras. The estimated cost of a call box is \$7,500 plus \$1,500 for installation of a phone line from Verizon. As the call boxes were being discussed, Herling asked, “are we talking about call boxes on both sides?” Mach and Davis responded “No, No.” The planned location for the call box would be on the Gardenway side as there is electricity available. It was suggested that in an emergency on the Hanover side, one could knock on a door at Greenbriar. The security cameras, costing \$5,000 each plus another \$1,500 for a Verizon phone line,

would be installed on either side of the pass with the ability of the Gardenway camera to focus on the call box. One member of PSAC felt that Greenbriar should be responsible for any safety measures on their property. Another member of PSAC said that she was concerned that the city was putting all this money into the Spellman Overpass while the crime rate was much higher in other parts of the city. Davis contended that this is the price for keeping the overpass open. Mach chimed in that she is in favor of a call box in the Springhill Lake-Metro area. Roberts wondered about the effectiveness of call boxes in general and suggested it’s impossible to provide enough call boxes for every emergency.

If a person pushes a call box, a call is relayed to police HQ and a police cruiser is dispatched to the area.

As for improved lighting, it was determined that due to winter and leafless trees, it is advisable to wait for summer to best determine lighting requirements. The city manger indicated they are in discussion with PEPCO about taking ownership of the lights on the overpass which may prove to be more cost effective for the city.

According to the action plan there is \$40,000 in the budget that can be used for this work – \$20,000 specifically for improvements related to the overpass and \$20,000 for emergency call boxes.

A final vote will take place in council chambers on February 11 on the points of the action plan.

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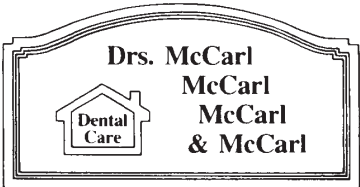


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Nutritious Plump Blueberries 4.4 oz. pk.	<b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b>	Medium Size Yellow Onions 3 lb. bag	<b>99¢</b>	Rio Star Grapefruit 5 lb. bag	<b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>	Tasty Red Bell Peppers	<b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> lb.
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**Robbery**  
January 15, 8:25 p.m., Beltway Plaza, a man reported that he was walking to his vehicle when he was approached from behind by two people. One of them placed a knife to the back of the man, announced a robbery and removed the man's wallet from his pocket. Both suspects fled the area on foot. There is no description of the suspects available.

January 20, 10:12 p.m., Breezewood Drive and Springhill Lane, a woman reported that she was walking on the path between Beltway Plaza and Breezewood Drive when she observed a man exit a nearby vehicle. He displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. After obtaining the woman's purse, he got back into the waiting vehicle and fled the scene. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'11", wearing a black jacket, a black hat and black gloves. The vehicle is described as a dark-colored Dodge Neon; there is no description for the driver.

January 20, 6:03 p.m., Greenbelt Road and Belle Point Drive, a woman reported that she was walking on Greenbelt Road when two people walked by her. One of them pulled the woman's purse from her arm and ran to a waiting vehicle described only as dark-colored and fled the scene.

January 22, 5:30 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace, a resident man and a resident youth were arrested and charged with armed robbery and robbery. A man reported that he was inside a building walking to an apartment when the man and the youth exited the laundry room. One of them produced a handgun and announced a robbery. After obtaining a cell phone and other property from the victim, both suspects fled the area on foot. A person matching the given description was stopped by police in the 9200 block of Springhill Lane and found to be in possession of property belonging to the man. The second suspect was stopped in the 6100 block of Breezewood Court and positively identified by the victim. The man was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. The youth was transported to Boys' Village in Cheltenham pending action by the juvenile justice system.

January 22, 7:38 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court. A food delivery person reported that he attempted to make a delivery but the residents stated that they did not place an order. When the delivery person left the apartment building he was approached by five people. Two of them assaulted the delivery person and demanded the food he was attempting to deliver. After obtaining the food, the suspects fled the scene on foot. Two of them are described as black males 16 to 18 years of age, 5'6" with heavy builds, each wearing a dark hat and black gloves. The suspect vehicle is described as a dark colored Dodge Neon.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department,  
<http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report"  
or [http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly\\_report.pdf](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf).  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Assault**  
January 20, 11:18 p.m., T.G.I. Friday's Restaurant, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with three counts of second-degree assault, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. A second nonresident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, trespass and failure to obey a lawful order. A third nonresident man was arrested and charged with failure to obey a lawful order. Police responded to a report of a fight in the restaurant parking lot. Upon arriving on the scene, an officer saw a man walking in the parking lot with his hand tucked inside the front of his waistband. The officer attempted to speak with the man, at which time the man spit on him and began shouting profanities. He then walked toward the officer in an aggressive manner while threatening him. He was told that he was under arrest, and he assaulted two officers as they attempted to place him in custody. The second man was arrested after he began yelling at the officers as they placed the first man under arrest. Both suspects were transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. The third man was arrested after he refused orders to leave the parking lot. He was released on citation pending trial.

**Drug Arrest**  
January 22, 8:02 p.m., 6200 block of Breezewood Court, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute and CDS possession – marijuana. Tracking robbery suspects, police stopped two people matching the descriptions given for the suspects. As the officer was doing a patdown for weapons, the man was found to possess several baggies of marijuana. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Theft**  
January 23, 6:53 p.m., Co-op Supermarket, a resident man was arrested and charged with theft. Police responded to the store for a report of an unattended purse that had been taken from a grocery cart. A citizen reported seeing a man run from the store with the purse. A short time later police saw a man matching the description given waiting at a bus stop on Crescent Road. As the officer approached the man he saw a wallet that matched the description given by the victim sticking out of the suspect's coat pocket. The wallet contained papers and property belonging to the victim. The man was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a

district court commissioner.  
**Disorderly Conduct**  
January 19, 2:22 a.m., Willy K's Bar and Restaurant, a nonresident woman was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and trespass. She was asked to leave the premises by management after becoming involved in a verbal altercation with another patron. The woman complied but returned a short time later and began acting in a disorderly fashion. She was arrested and released on citation pending trial.

January 20, 12:43 p.m., Greenway Center, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest after police saw him in the shopping center parking lot looking in parked cars. As police began speaking with him, he began acting in a disorderly manner and shouting profanities. Police placed the man under arrest, at which time he began to struggle and kick at the officers. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Trespass**  
January 18, 8:47 p.m., Beltway Plaza, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespass and theft. He was observed concealing store merchandise under his jacket at the mall. He attempted to flee the area but was apprehended by security officers. The man had previously been banned by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

January 18, 10:57 p.m., Beltway Plaza, a nonresident man was observed on the property of Beltway Plaza after he had previously been banned by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

**Burglaries**  
January 22, 12:16 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered a residence by breaking out a bedroom window. Nothing appeared to have been taken.

January 24, 6:34 a.m., 7800 block of Walker Drive, it was reported that unknown person(s) broke out the rear window of a workout room and removed two plasma TVs.

**Vehicle Crimes**  
Two vehicles were reported stolen: a 2003 Dodge Durango from the 5800 block Cherrywood Lane and a 1998 Gray Plymouth Breeze, Maryland tags 7DEP71, from the 9100 block of Edmonston Court.

Three vehicles were recovered by outside police departments with no arrests made. One vehicle tag, Maryland 96372BY, was not recovered and is still out as stolen.

Vandalism to, theft from and attempted theft of vehicles were reported in the following areas: Maplewood Court (two incidents), 4 Court Gardenway, 6400 block Ivy Lane, 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive, 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace (two incidents) and 6200 block Springhill Drive.

**Stolen Auto Arrests**  
January 23, Kenilworth Avenue and Crescent Road, two nonresident men and a nonresident youth were arrested and charged with motor vehicle theft, theft over \$500, theft, unauthorized use, possession of burglary tools in a motor vehicle and rogue and vagabond. Police observed a 1996 Honda Civic being pushed down the roadway by the men and youth. Believing that the vehicle was disabled, the officer

turned around to render assistance and then noticed that the steering column had been tampered with. Investigation revealed that the vehicle had been reported stolen. All the suspects then fled the area on foot onto Crescent Road toward Buddy Attick Park. One man was apprehended with the assistance of a K-9 and handler. The youth was apprehended without incident nearby. The second man was located a short time later near Kenilworth Avenue and Crescent Road. One suspect was transported to Laurel Regional Hospital for treatment of minor injuries sustained during apprehension. Both men were transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the juvenile justice system.

January 24, a routine computer check on a 2003 Grand Jeep Cherokee revealed that the vehicle had been reported stolen December 26, therefore police conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver, a nonresident man, was determined to have an open warrant for the unauthorized removal of this same vehicle. His driver's license was currently suspended in the state of Maryland and he had no license in any other state. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for service of the warrant as well as presentation to the district court commissioner for the charges of theft over \$500, vehicle theft and for a traffic citation for driving while suspended and driving without a license.

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The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

LOST and FOUND

FOUND – Drycleaned items left at the New Deal Café. Come in to identify.

NOTICES

PANCAKE SUPPER – SHROVE TUESDAY, February 5, 2008, at 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. ALL YOU CAN EAT! Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church 40 Ridge Road, 301-474-9410.

SPAGHETTI DINNER – February 16, 5-7 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road. All you can eat spaghetti, bread, dessert and drink. Adults \$8; 5-12 years \$6; age 4 and under FREE. Homemade pies for sale. 301-474-7291

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## RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$8.10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$12.15). Deadline 10 p.m. Tuesday.

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## We need help on the Ad Desk!

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# Greenbelters Join Global Warming Action

by Brian St. George

On January 17 a contingent of about 15 Greenbelters set out in a convoy to Annapolis to take part in a rally supporting the Global Warming Solutions Act. The bill proposed by Prince George's Senator Paul Pinsky and Representative Kumar Barve of Montgomery County, is designed to stimulate the economy while reducing emissions in the State of Maryland by 20 percent by 2020 and 90 percent by 2050.

Arriving on the scene the Greenbelters mingled with approximately 300 other supporters of the Global Warming Solutions Act in front of the State House. The weather was in the 30s as the snow began to come down. Barve remarked, "It's finally feeling like winter." (Two weeks earlier eastern Maryland had temperatures in the 70s.)

The meeting was opened by Claire Douglas of the Global Climate Action Network, who gave a collective thanks to the 100 organizations that had come together in support of this bill, demonstrating that it's still possible to rally Americans for more than an NFL game.

The speakers were sheltered under a tent, along with the press, while the supporters rallied in the snow.

Barve began by saying, "It isn't unusual in the history of this country for states to take the lead where the federal government has not." He suggested the ecological destruction taking place and its effect on humans warranted such action.

Senator Pinsky stated, "It is impossible to build walls and dikes around every farm and hotel that will need protection." As Maryland has the third largest coastline behind Louisiana and California, it makes sense, he said, to consider precautionary measures against what most scientists agree: excessive carbon emissions are a threat to our current and future society.

Under the current trajectory Maryland would be faced with an "economic catastrophe," Pinsky said, citing destruction of farm land and hotels by rising waters, not to mention the continued death of the Chesapeake, should current trends continue.

He also reminded the crowd that American air and water quality is affected by industrialization in China. "How can we expect them to clean up their act," he asked, "if we are unwilling to clean up ours?"

David Caahn, legislative aide to Senator Pinsky, indicated that implementation of the bill could reinvigorate the economy by introducing new state-of-the-art green technologies that would create good paying jobs here in Maryland.

### Five Votes Needed

Nineteen members of the Senate have signed the bill, which requires five more Senate supporters in order for the bill to be approved and forwarded on to the House of Delegates for its consideration. Three months are left in this legislative session to pass the bill.

One of the many speakers was Dr. Cindy Parker of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She indicated that global warming will only have a direct effect on three areas, "air, water and food." She suggested "without healthy eco-



Protesters, including 15 people from Greenbelt, headed to Annapolis in support of the Global Warming Solutions Act.

— photos by Mark Christal

systems societies cannot expect to continue to extract water, to grow food" at a rate that supports current industrialization and population growth.

Mike Tidwell and Clair Douglas of Global Climate Action Network urged the crowd to "stay involved." She said, "You have to believe that you can get the job done. You must put pressure on your elected representatives to get the job done."

Mark Christal of Greenbelt summed up the meeting by commenting, "If this bill passes, it will have far-reaching impacts." He added, "It's unlikely that the state would build the ICC, because it would be illegal." He likened it to the Endangered Species Act, which forces developers and planners to take an ecosystem into account before creating a Wal-Mart or Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The falling snow added to the excitement of the participants. On the way home the Greenbelt contingent was asked by some rally goers from Baltimore, "Greenbelt — that was that socialistic experiment, wasn't it?"

## Panel Reviews Pentagon Papers

A panel discussion, "The Battle for the Pentagon Papers, from the Sources," will take place on Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m., in Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The discussion will feature Ben Bradlee, executive editor of The Washington Post from 1965 to 1991, and Daniel Ellsberg, whistle-blower, author, activist.

The attorney for Daniel Ellsberg during the Pentagon Papers trial was the late Roger Clark, who defended pro bono the News Review's libel suit in the late 1960s. Clark received national attention when the case received a unanimous Supreme Court verdict vindicating the News Review.

This panel discussion is offered in conjunction with the L.A. Theatre Works performances of the docudrama "Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers" on February 7 and 8 at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. This event is free but ticketed. Call 301-405-ARTS (2787).

(NOTE: As of Tuesday, January 29, the News Review had word that tickets to the discussion were sold out. However, the discussion will be televised in an adjacent room on a large screen.)

## Smoke-free Maryland Starting on Feb. 1

Regulations go into effect on February 1 in the final step making Maryland a smoke-free state. The regulations to implement the Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 have been released by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and require Maryland businesses to prohibit smoking in indoor areas open to the public, in outdoor areas that meet the indoor area definition and to post signs in areas where smoking is prohibited. In addition, the regulations prohibit smoking in private clubs with liquor licenses and in mass transit vehicles as well as private vehi-

cles used for public transportation of children, day care and health care transportation.

The regulations allow businesses to apply to local health departments for a temporary waiver from certain provisions of the Clean Indoor Air Act. DHMH is launching a website with relevant information and forms available for download. Go to [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us); under Hot Issues click on Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007.

There is also a toll-free help line, 1-866-703-3266, to answer basic questions and to help the public and businesses comply with the new law.

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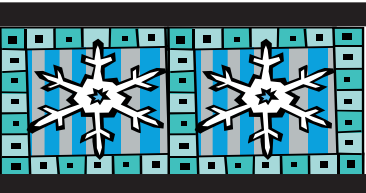
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# Overflow Crowd for Greenbelt’s 2nd of 3 Visioning Exercises

by Thomas X. White

The City Council hosted its second Community Visioning Session at the Greenbelt Municipal Building on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Unlike the sparsely attended initial visioning session held on January 12 at the Springhill Lake Elementary School, the second session in old Greenbelt was very well attended and included citizens from all areas of Greenbelt.

The process generally followed the format described in the invitation mailed to Greenbelt residents early in January and consisted of four sessions of about 50 minutes each where attendees could rotate among six general topic areas that were related to the six major city departments. Each station was staffed with a facilitator and note taker. This design enabled citizens to participate in at least four of the topic areas but there was no restriction for a citizen wishing to rove around whenever they chose. Also, citizens at each station could raise any issue they wished no matter what the particular topic area for that station happened to be so there was ample opportunity to have all viewpoints and ideas captured by the note takers.

Between each session there was a short break to allow participants to change stations and to partake of refreshments/snacks provided by the city. With such a well attended session the scene resembled the view seen on the New York Stock Exchange trading floor at the height of the trading day, except that, instead of stock being traded, here, the currency was ideas and input into the process.

In her welcoming remarks Mayor Judith Davis emphasized that the purpose was a visioning process seeking broad citizen input from all three sectors of the city, noting that the city has grown and times have changed. After celebrating its 70th anniversary, the city council is hoping that citizens will provide suggestions for improving city services and direction for making Greenbelt the best and the greatest in the future. All five members of council were present for the opening of the sessions. Davis had to leave the sessions early to attend another meeting and Councilmember Rodney Roberts had to cut short his time due to a bad cold.

Councilmembers Edward Putens, Konrad Herling and Leta Mach remained through the entire day and provided the closing remarks. Anticipating questions regarding the next step, they noted that all of the input received from the three visioning sessions would be assembled and placed on the city website in the form of posters. They also expressed appreciation for the citizen participation. Herling reminded everyone that the third session is scheduled for Saturday, February 2 in the Multipurpose Room at Eleanor Roosevelt High School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. He also noted that by participating in this process, citizens are making an investment in their community.

### Social Services

The Social Services sessions were staffed by Liz Park, Director of Social Services, and Jeff Morissette of the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB). One of the first issues raised was the need for improved programs for helping Greenbelt seniors to “age in

place,” that is, helping the elderly or handicapped to remain in their home as long as they can. Sylvia Lewis, president of Greenbelt Homes Inc (GHI) was a participant at this session and noted the growing numbers of GHI residents desiring to stay in their homes.

Also offered was the need for the city to assist citizens with programs for energy assistance, adaptive improvements to homes that would allow seniors to stay in their homes longer, improved programs for communications for seniors living alone as well as improvements in accessible public transportation for seniors needing to shop and make medical-related office visits.

Another issue identified for more city attention was the increasing evidence of homelessness in the city. There was agreement that the community needs to better understand the causes of homelessness occurring here. For this issue and similar situations of cultural and economic disparity as well as the perceived disconnectedness among the geographic sectors of the city, it was suggested that the city could facilitate or promote a series of community dialogue or focus group sessions on such topics to foster more community solutions in these areas. This was a topic raised at the first visioning session held in Springhill Lake. Ideas on how to better overcome the physical and communication divide among the sectors of the city were offered. These included working for the construction of overpasses to bridge the major highway barriers separating the three Greenbelt sectors; better communication delivery to all Greenbelt residents via either the News Review or more regular city communication approaches and consideration of the political/electoral issues with the current at-large mechanism for the election of the council.

### General Government

General Government sessions were staffed by City Treasurer Jeff Williams and Kevin Hammett of CRAB. Interestingly, several of the ideas proposed at this session were aimed at the same issues raised at the Social Services session. The disconnectedness among the three Greenbelt sectors was paramount at this session. Possibly because Hammett was the facilitator for this session, participants were interested in how CRAB functions and its experience in handling community relations issues.

Hammett and others provided a brief history of CRAB and how it was created at a time in Greenbelt’s history when city families were faced with the court-ordered busing in Prince George’s County to address segregation in county schools. With Greenbelt children being bused out of their community and children from other areas of the county being bused into Greenbelt, the community and its sensitivities were stressed. Council in the mid-70s established CRAB as a vehicle for increasing community understanding of the school busing and other desegregation issues and to foster improved communication on such issues.

More recently, CRAB worked with the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Youth Advisory Committee to seek citizen

input into public safety issues related to violent crime occurring in the vicinity of the Gladys Noon Spellman Overpass at Gardenway and Roosevelt Center.

Ideas at this session focused on improved communications as one means to “bridge the gap” between Greenbelt’s three sectors. One idea was to recreate the “Study Circles” approach used for a period in the 90s to address social issues; another was to work to get more complete distribution of the Greenbelt News Review to all three sectors. One idea was aimed at improvements to the city website; another called for periodic meetings among the organized city community neighborhood associations to compare notes and share experiences. An idea to have the city consider making the entire city a WiFi (wireless accessibility) free community was put forward; also suggested was the conduct of an annual town hall type meeting; and a (quarterly) city newsletter delivered by mail to city residents.

There was also a brief discussion of concerns relating to the quantity and quality of health-care facilities available to Greenbelt residents. Although recognized as not a city responsibility, it was suggested that the city officials place this issue on their agenda when meeting with county and state legislative representatives. Of immediate concern is the precarious financial condition of the Prince George’s County hospital system.

### Planning

The facilitator for this session was George Branyon of the Advisory Planning Board and the note taker was Celia Craze, director of the Planning and Community Development department. Either due to the diligence of Craze in note taking or due to the breadth of input generated by this session, this team produced the largest number of ideas from among the sessions I attended. In spite of the mayor’s urging at the beginning of the session that the visioning should not include “griping,” this session crossed that boundary on some items.

The following ideas were suggested for actions the city should work on: work with the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) on the development of a cooperative farm for citizens to grow their own food locally; develop a formal process among school officials and developers on Greenbelt school capacity and design issues; work toward pedestrian and bicycle trail connections for all of Greenbelt; work with BARC and NASA Goddard on pedestrian and bicycle connections from Greenbelt; avoid becoming just another prototypical community; and build on the unique strengths of Greenbelt and consider sustainability.

The county schools system is one of Greenbelt’s many challenges: provide better communication of Greenbelt preferences to county officials; schools can affect marketing of Greenbelt for young families; county planning in the area needs to be updated; try to integrate Greenbelt’s plan into the county plan; continue efforts to secure planning and zoning autonomy for Greenbelt; and try to control our own destiny.

## VISIONING continued from page 1

Director Celia Craze told us that plans by AIMCO, the owners of Springhill Lake, are “fluid.”

Not only have their original plans been put on hold since the county’s office of Park and Planning failed to approve their site plan proposal, she said, but the owners may even contemplate selling the property and moving on. That certainly was news to this reporter.

A major issue in the original AIMCO concept was to relocate the present elementary school adjacent to the middle school. Clearly that change is not to be, as the school board proceeds with construction plans for the middle school.

On the other hand, plans for the Pulte townhomes development near the railroad track have been approved and plans for an overpass over Branchville Road are moving apace. According to the terms of county approval for this and other developments at and near the Metro site, improvements in transportation are “required at every phase,” Craze said.

A flyover of Branchville Road will connect the new development with Greenbelt Road. But before development can occur on the Metro site, she said, 3,800 current parking places must be replaced by a parking garage.

Talking of that same site, as our reporter Thomas X. White noted, a later group expressed strong opposition to an idea appearing in the press that a large professional soccer stadium could be built there. White’s group urged a quick response by council that such a proposal not be considered.

One participant in my group wondered how the Roosevelt Center might develop more “vitality.” Another participant hoped for a bookstore. Others spoke of retail for a diverse population. Someone suggested an arts district and someone else wanted skateboarding in the Center.

White noted that his group

hoped for better coordination between the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission plans to rehabilitate their water and sewer infrastructure and possible work by cable, telephone and electric utilities to bury their utility lines. Someone suggested looking for possible grants for the city to participate in such work.

### Social Services

All three News Review representatives – Robin Everly, White and this reporter – sat in at different times with groups dealing with social services. According to Everly, someone in her group recommended a senior residential facility near the Roosevelt Center. Had I been present, I would have noted a long-ago effort led by Jim Cassels to bring about exactly that outcome – and how it had been shot down by citizen opposition.

A recurring theme was how to bring about more communication between city neighborhoods (west, center and east). As an old-timer – who moved here when Greenbelt Road was a two-lane macadam trail through the woods and Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway had not been built – this reporter knows how little control Greenbelt citizens had over how things turned out.

### Future Plans

Before leaving at the end of the visioning session, Everly asked City Manager Michael McLaughlin about future plans for this three-part enterprise. (Besides the meeting on January 12 in Springhill Lake and this one in the Municipal Building, another is scheduled for February 2 in the Multipurpose Room in Eleanor Roosevelt High School.)

McLaughlin said that notes from the flip charts will be transcribed and given to councilmembers following each session. From some of these comments, council will develop worksessions and establish goals and action plans for the coming year.

Regarding Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission plans to rehabilitate their water and sewer infrastructure, try to effect better coordination of the work and attempt to get other utilities (cable/phone/electric) to use the opportunity to bury their utility lines and explore possible grants for the city to participate in the work. More/better enforcement of animal control ordinances and car speeds on city streets and area wide traffic calming are needed, with specific focus on the Ridge and Westway area; look at Metro and school bus traffic load on upper Ridge Road; improved, stronger campaign needed for walkability, signage and lighting for Greenbelt trails/walkways; foster art in public places; build on community identity; strengthen methods for broadcasting important community notifications; consider Wi-Fi throughout the city.

### Parks and Recreation

This session was facilitated by Betty Timer of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Director Hank Irving was the note taker.

Among the ideas put forward in this session were: improve intergenerational activities and programs; plan a special day to celebrate diversity; plan a Greenbelt fitness day; sponsor a scholarship program to give low-income youths access to city programs; offer more convenient activities for

working people, such as language classes and specialty workshops; expand city transportation system for seniors/youth access to facilities and commercial areas.

For facilities the following suggestions were offered: make sure city ball fields are compliant with all standards; improve the tennis court area and provide a wall for handball practice, etc.; expand and develop a citywide trail system with safe connections to all sections of the city; upgrade and maintain the Schrom Hills Park areas and the existing fitness stations as well as tree care; increase use of city gardens; consider development of a new playground at Pinecrest Court; expand and repair the weight room at the Youth Center.

Several ideas were put forth regarding the preservation of open space in the city and surrounding communities. Suggestions in this area included: look to the future by influencing developers to preserve open space; develop a vision for planning and development to retain appropriate management and ecological restoration of natural areas; consider improvements to the lake path to prevent erosion and explore previous surfaces and management to better delineate the walking path from natural areas; consider appropriate wildlife management for the lake park.